

18th April 1960]

[*Note.—An asterisk (*) at the commencement of a speech indicates revision by the Member.*]

II. ADJOURNMENT MOTIONS.

(1) CLOSURE OF MODERN HIGH SCHOOL, KODAMBAKKAM.

MR. SPEAKER: I have received notice of an adjournment motion from the hon. Member Sri V. K. Kothandaraman. He wants the House to be adjourned for discussing a matter of urgent public importance, namely, 'the closure of the Modern High School, Kodambakkam, for the past one month and the consequent difficulties caused to about 1,200 students and 37 teachers'. Obviously I need not tell that this is out of order. This is not a Government school. The hon. Member says that the school is closed for the last one month. This is not a matter which has arisen suddenly. It is a continuing matter, and, therefore, cannot form the subject-matter of an adjournment motion. I rule it out of order.

(2) DISPUTE BETWEEN THE MADRAS STATE ELECTRICITY BOARD AND THE WORKERS OF THE KUNDAH PROJECT.

MR. SPEAKER: I have received notice of an adjournment motion from hon. Members Sri N. K. Palanisami, Sri S. M. Annamalai, and Sri V. K. Kothandaraman, to discuss a matter of urgent public importance, namely, 'the failure of the Government to take effective steps to settle the dispute between the Madras State Electricity Board and the workers of Kundah Project for ensuring industrial peace, which has resulted in a strike endangering the speedy execution of the project'.

Before I give my ruling, I would like to hear the Hon. Minister concerned, whoever he is.

Sri N. K. Palanisami rose.

MR. SPEAKER: Only after I admit it, the hon. Member can make a speech.

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN: Sir, as I have said before, an industrial dispute is a common occurrence. Certain claims are raised by workers and they are being examined by the department concerned. The duty or the responsibility of the Government in these matters is to provide the necessary machinery for conciliation. The necessary machinery for conciliation has been provided in this case, and, therefore, there is no further liability on the part of the Government. If no agreement is reached between the parties, that shows that they are not in agreement with each other. So far as this Government are concerned, there is no failure of duty or responsibility.

MR. SPEAKER: Yesterday I gave a ruling that this House could not be made the forum for settling disputes. But I was told that this being a Government concern, they might be able to throw some light. In view of the Hon. Minister's statement, I feel that the same machinery that is meant for settling disputes in the private sector will also exist in the public sector. I, therefore, feel that this House cannot be made the forum for settling disputes. I rule the adjournment motion out of order.